

From: ["Carey, Curtis" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4CB6F75253154BFC8AA889F8A36596ED-CAREY.CURT>](mailto:Carey.Curtis@epa.gov)
To: [Peters](#)
[Dana;Brooks](#)
[Karl](#)
CC: ["Slugantz, Lynn" <Slugantz.Lynn@epa.gov>](mailto:Slugantz.Lynn@epa.gov)
Date: 10/3/2014 7:51:55 AM
Subject: RE: Mr. Brooks-- in response to your letter

Thanks Dana.

From: Peters, Dana
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 8:36 AM
To: Brooks, Karl
Cc: Carey, Curtis; Slugantz, Lynn
Subject: FW: Mr. Brooks-- in response to your letter

Thanks,
Dana

From: Lois Gibbs [<mailto:lgibbs@chej.org>]
Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2014 6:05 PM
To: Peters, Dana
Cc: Lois Gibbs
Subject: Mr. Brooks-- in response to your letter

Dana Peters, please see that Mr. Brooks sees this e-mail soon. Thank you for your assistance.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

I find your letter on behalf of Administrator McCarthy to be offensive. You suggested that when visiting St. Louis on Saturday that “providing accurate facts about West Lake

should be a top priority.” You then invite me to speak with your team two weeks **after** my public meeting with the community. That doesn’t sound to me like you are really interested in making sure I had the correct information and facts.

Your comment about our agreeing on EPA’s mission makes no sense. Because we can both read and agree on what EPA says its mission has nothing to do with this Superfund site or the Region’s actions related to that site.

In 2008, 2011, and again in 2014, there were deadlines for deciding on a remedy, yet there still is no decision. The MO Department of Health and Senior Services recently released a study that documents a significant increase in childhood and other cancers in the neighborhood. They have requested assistance from ATSDR to establish an expert panel that includes representatives from state and federal agencies, academia and the public to further evaluate the health impacts of exposures related to the West Lake site.

The mishandling of this site has gone on too long already. Enough is enough.

How can you say the “site remains protective of public health” when the recent DHSS health study concludes that the health of the community surrounding the Superfund site is riddled with increased rates of cancer including childhood brain cancer. At the same time, the Bridgeton Landfill continues to burn and release odors into the community. With these odors come chemicals. It’s unavoidable. Making matters worse, the fire continues to approach the West Lake Superfund site, loaded with highly radioactive waste. This site is designated by EPA as among the worst contaminated sites in the country and by definition poses significant public health and environmental risks.

Since I’m leaving tomorrow for St. Louis, I’d like to know from you which facts you believe to be myths and which you believe to be truths? I can’t wait two weeks to have a “chat” with your team when I’m speaking with the community on Saturday.

The underground fire in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill has been burning since 2010.

Myth or Truth?

In March 2014, EPA said that recent tests had detected radioactive waste farther south than expected, about 100 feet inside the north quarry of the Bridgeton Landfill. That would mean the fire is about 900 feet from the radioactive waste.

Myth or Truth?

In March 2014, EPA scientists in Cincinnati stated that if the radioactive waste is left in place and capped, a subsurface fire could crack that cap, potentially releasing radon gas, radioactive dust, and other contaminants into the air. Groundwater could also be contaminated.

Myth or Truth?

Should the fire reach the radioactive waste, families need to shelter in place, though no one knows for how long.

Myth or Truth?

There are studies and general agreement, with the exception of your office, that the fire (based on data) is moving toward the radioactive wastes.

Myth or Truth?

There is a significantly higher rate of childhood brain and nervous system cancers in the surrounding community.

Myth or Truth?

Your office has said they would have a decision on a remedy plan in May 2008, and then in 2011 your office released another study on cleanup options with no recommendations.

Myth or Truth?

Earlier this year EPA conducted more groundwater and radioactivity testing at West Lake, but have still not reached a final decision on what to do with the radioactive material.

Myth or Truth?

Out of frustration, in Feb. 2014, members of Missouri's Congressional delegation sent a letter to you - EPA Regional Administrator Karl Brooks - asking you to contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take over the cleanup at West Lake.

Myth or Truth?

You, Mr. Brooks, said although your agency would continue to work with the Corps and rely on its technical expertise, the ultimate decision about what to do with the radioactive material at West Lake would remain with the EPA, not the Corps.

Myth or Truth?

While your office is moving at a snail's pace to decide on a remedial option, property values have declined.

Myth or Truth?

There are two public schools within the zone that is impacted by odors, smoke and potentially radioactive emissions should the fire reaches the radioactive waste.

Myth or Truth?

I'm looking forward to your response before 9 am on Saturday, October 4th.

Lois Marie Gibbs, Ph.D.

Executive Director

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